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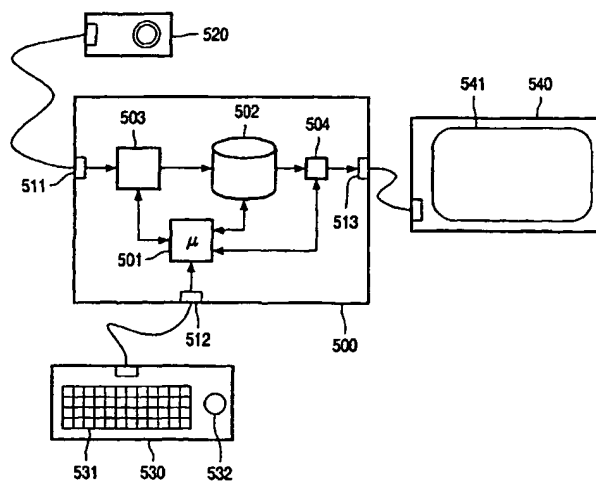
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLASSIFICATION OF A DATA OBJECT IN A DATABASE

(57) **Abstract:** Increasing capacity of storage media allows larger databases. This calls for efficient classification methods to enhance retrieval of data objects like pictures and films. Pictures may carry metadata related to date, time and location of creation. This helps retrieval, but combined queries hamper fast search and retrieval because lots of metadata have to be checked. The invention proposes a method of classifying the data objects by associating the data objects with classification parameters. Each classification parameter is associated with a data object when values of one or more metadata parameters fall within a certain range. Advantageous embodiments provide possibilities for automatic classification by extracting criteria for classification from the database itself. This is done by checking similarity between data objects having equal values for the classification parameter. Similarity is based on the values of the metadata related to, for example, creation of the data object.